

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the present amendment and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-16, 25, 28, and 29 are pending. In the present amendment, Claims 5-7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 25, 28, and 29 are currently amended and Claim 30 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for the present amendment can be found in the original specification, for example, at page 37, line 19 to page 39, line 22 and in FIGS. 4 and 22. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Amendment filed on July 11, 2007 was objected to; the drawings were disapproved; and Claims 1-5, 8, 9, 25, and 28-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Asai et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,378,198, hereinafter “Asai”).

Initially, Applicants would like to thank Examiner Chang for the courtesies extended to Applicants’ representative during the interview for the present application on March 31, 2009. During the interview, Applicants’ representative and Examiner Chang discussed the objection to the Amendment filed on July 11, 2007 and the disapproval of the drawings. Specifically, Applicants’ representative noted that the Amendment filed on December 14, 2007 replaced the term “unscheduled” with the term “brake-in” in accordance with the original specification. Thus, the pending specification and drawings match the terminology used in the original specification. Accordingly, no further objection on this basis is anticipated.

Additionally, during the interview, a proposed amendment to independent Claim 25 was discussed in view of Asai. In order to clarify amended Claim 25, Examiner Chang helpfully suggested to replace “bypass” with language that clearly indicated that the boards on the other board transfer device were still passed along the conveyor and not bypassing the

conveyor. Thus, based on the support found, for example, on lines 19-23 on page 38 of the original specification, the term “bypass conveyor” is hereby replaced with “pass through conveyor.” In view of the discussion with Examiner Chang, the present amendment is hereby submitted for formal consideration.

Turning now to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this rejection and traverse this rejection, as discussed below.

Amended Claim 25 recites a component mounting system comprising a component mounting apparatus, at least one component supply device, at least one component placing device, a shifting device, and a controller. The controller is configured to select one production mode, from a first production mode and a second production mode, in which to operate the component mounting system. Accordingly, the controller can select from a first production mode and a second production mode. In the second production mode, one of the two board transfer devices is a mounting conveyor where the at least one component placing device mounts components on the boards on the mounting conveyor. Additionally, the other board transfer device is a pass-through conveyor such that the boards on the pass-through conveyor do not require additional components to be mounted thereon and are transferred to pass-through mounting of the components at the component placing device.

Thus, as explained, for example, in lines 19-23 on page 38 of the original specification, the second board transfer device passes the boards through the component mounting apparatus such that the boards do not stop for the component placing device to add additional components thereto. Accordingly, efficiency of the component mounting system can be increased. It is respectfully suggested that the cited reference does not disclose or suggest every feature recited in amended Claim 25.

Asai describes a carry-in conveyor 404 that can be shifted between a first main conveyor 400 and a second main conveyor 402.¹ Thus, the carry-in conveyor 404 of Asai can place the PCB 408 on either the first conveyor 400 or the second conveyor 402 to have circuit components CC 842 mounted thereon.²

However, it is respectfully submitted that Asai does not disclose or suggest “a controller configured to select one production mode, from a first production mode and a second production mode, in which to operate the component mounting system, wherein ... in the second production mode, one of the two board transfer devices is a mounting conveyor where the at least one component placing device mounts components on the boards on the mounting conveyor, and an other board transfer device is a pass through conveyor such that the boards on the pass through conveyor do not require additional components to be mounted thereon and are transferred to pass through mounting of the components at the component placing device,” as recited in amended Claim 25.

Instead, as discussed above, Asai describes using mounting devices 18 and 20 to mount the CCs 842 on PCBs 408 on **both** main conveyors 402 and 400. Thus, Asai is silent regarding using one of the main conveyors 402 and 400 as a pass through conveyor. Further, Asai does not describe using the controller to divide the PCBs 408 into one group which does not need any additional CCs 842 mounted thereon and to place that one group on only one of the main conveyors 400 or 402.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Asai does not disclose or suggest the claimed component mounting system. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of independent Claim 25, and all claims dependent thereon, as unpatentable over Asai be withdrawn.

¹ See Asai at column 21, lines 41-46 and in FIG. 4.

² See Asai at column 46, lines 6-21.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

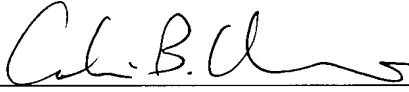
Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "G. J. Maier", is written over a horizontal line.

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